

National Space Day: PM Modi hails India’s rise, says Gen Z building new technologies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked National Space Day by highlighting India’s growing global space presence, private-sector potential and Gen Z’s technological contributions. He said the space sector is vital to achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047, while ISRO continues inspiring future scientists

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended greetings to countrymen and scientists on National Space Day, hailing India’s global rise in the space sector and praising Gen Z for building new technologies. He said this rise has made India a “magnet” for investors.

Sharing a video of his speeches, PM Modi said, “I said in Ayodhya that this is the beginning of a new cycle of change. In this new cycle, India is steadily expanding its space presence in the global order, and this is clearly reflected in our space program.” “Together, we have resolved to make India a de-

veloped nation by 2047, and the space sector plays a vital role in achieving this goal,” he said in the video.

Praising the youth of the nation, the Prime Minister said, “Today, these Gen Z engineers, designers, coders and scientists are building new technologies. Be it propulsion systems, composite materials, rocket stages or satellite platforms, India’s youth is working in areas that were not even imagined some time ago.”

He also hailed the private space sector of the country and said, “India’s private space talent is making its own identity in the world. Today, India’s



space sector has become a magnet for global investors.” He said that ISRO is inspiring India’s next generation of scien-

tists. “Seeing the success of ISRO, many children think that when they grow up, they too will become scientists,” PM Modi

added.

National Space Day is celebrated in India on August 23. The day marks the historic soft landing of

the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander near the Moon’s south pole in 2023, making India the first nation to reach that region of the Moon. The achievement became a defining milestone in the country’s space programme and demonstrated the growing strength of India’s scientific and technological capabilities. As India observes National Space Day 2026, ISRO Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space Dr V Narayanan has called for greater innovation, collaboration and ambition as the country works towards becoming a global leader in space.

The 2026 celebrations are being held under the theme, “Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership.” The theme reflects India’s ambition to strengthen its scientific and technological capabilities while encouraging innovation, partnerships and greater participation in the global space ecosystem.

In his National Space Day 2026 message, Dr V Narayanan emphasised the importance of continuing to push the boundaries of science and technology while building partnerships that can strengthen India’s space ecosystem.

Demolition begins at collapsed Gachibowli building; occupants of nearby structures asked to vacate

Hyderabad: The authorities have started demolishing the seven storied building that collapsed all of a sudden at Anjaiahnagar, Gachibowli on Saturday afternoon.

Two workers were trapped and killed in the building while some individuals staying in the adjacent buildings suffered injuries in the incident after the huge building collapsed.

On Sunday, teams of the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, HYDRAA and other agencies under police protection started demolishing the building constructed without obtaining permission. The



official deployed a JCB to pull down the structures. The drizzle is hampering the demolition works in the area.

Occupants of the neighbouring buildings that suffered damage were also being asked to vacate their accommodation as those buildings were also constructed in violation of the existing building rules.

Students, working professionals and other occupants were seen moving out of the premises with their belongings to other accommodations.

A police picket was deployed in the area to prevent any trouble.

Auto Unions Call Off Indefinite Strike

HYDERABAD: Autorickshaw and transport unions called off their proposed indefinite strike late on Sunday, hours before it was to begin, following an assurance from transport minister Ponnampallabharathi that talks would be held to address their demands next month. The decision brought relief to parents of school students dependent on autorickshaws and private transport. The announcement came after talks between the transport department and the unions, which had earlier remained firm on going ahead with the strike. Minister Prabhakar, who was in Huzurabad, joined the meeting online. After the meeting, a transport department official said the government had responded positively to the demands of autorickshaw unions.

A meeting involving the labour and transport departments and representatives of autorickshaw unions will be held on September 1 to finalise the modalities.

During the talks, the government stated that there was no plan for the RTC to purchase electric autorickshaws. An assurance was also given on an autorickshaw fare hike. It was also decided to initiate the process for launching a government-run app similar to Ola and Uber, with the IT Department taking up the necessary work. A decision will also be taken on restricting passenger transportation to vehicles with yellow plates, or commercial registration, including two-wheelers operating through services such as Rapido, Ola and Uber.

On the promise made during the last elections to provide ₹12,000 to autorickshaw workers, the government said a decision would be taken after consultations with the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Cabinet colleagues, while taking into account the state’s financial situation.



Revanth Calls On Diaspora To Champion ‘Telangana Rising’



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy invited the Telugu diaspora in the United Kingdom to become strong proponents and ambassadors of Telangana Rising. He urged them to actively promote the 'Telangana Rising' goals across the globe. He also said that he would speak about all issues related to the Centre’s denial of permission to him to visit the US once he returned to Hyderabad on Monday.

Revanth Reddy along with industries and IT minister D. Sridhar Babu addressed the Telugu community diaspora in London on Sunday. Discussing Telangana’s development and its future progress, Revanth Reddy emphasised that the

diaspora should also become partners in the state’s development. They urged the attendees to serve as effective ambassadors for the state by vigorously promoting the 'Telangana Rising' objectives at the global level.

During his visit to the United Kingdom, Revanth Reddy secured preliminary agreements for academic collaborations with institutions like the University of Cambridge and Imperial College, London while showcasing the state’s progress in London. Following the denial of political clearance for a planned trip to the United States, Revanth Reddy is scheduled a return to Hyderabad early on Monday.

“I have concluded all my meetings and sched-

uled events in London and I am grateful for the overwhelming support that I have received in the past three days. In a few hours, I will be taking a flight back home to Hyderabad instead of proceeding to Boston as per original schedule, after the MEA (Central Govt) denied permission for my USA tour for ‘political reasons’. I will speak about all the related issues once I return to Hyderabad,” the Chief Minister posted on X.

Separately, the Chief Minister thanked AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and other party leaders for supporting him after the Centre denied him permission to travel to the US.

Reddy, in a post on 'X', said: “My deepest grati-

tude for the strong support from our leader and Congress party national president, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji @kharge on the issue of the Centre denying me permission to travel to the USA. I am very thankful to my party, all the leaders and people across the country who supported in this issue in national interest.”

Reddy said he has concluded all his meetings and scheduled events in London.

“Revanth Reddy had planned to undertake a 10-day visit to the UK and the US, the visit primarily focusing on discussions with renowned institutes of higher education including Harvard University and MIT to tie up with the Telangana government. Following the denial of permission, he decided to return to Hyderabad from London while directing a delegation of officials who accompanied him to proceed with the US leg of the trip.

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao had alleged that Revanth Reddy had sought to meet New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani. CMO sources, however, said a meeting with Mamdani was not part of the CM’s proposed itinerary in the US.

In Pune, Rahul Gandhi engages Gen-Z, challenges ‘Manusmriti’'s view of women

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, speaking at the Chatron Ki Gunj event in Pune, declared that India’s 70 crore women are the nation’s greatest strength. He urged young women to break free from patriarchal constraints while sharply criticising the Manusmriti for denying women independence.

Pune: Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, addressed students at the ‘Chatron Ki Gunj’ event in Pune on Saturday, emphasising that women represent India’s greatest asset while launching a sharp critique against the ideology of the Manusmriti.

Speaking under the event’s central theme ‘Pinjra Toda’ (Break the Cage), the Leader of Opposition said that women are bound to no one but themselves and reject patriarchal claims over them.

“I have not come here today to speak on politics,” Rahul Gandhi said while interacting with Gen-Z students.

“When asked about India’s main strength, people point to the economy, the military, healthcare, or overall population. But my position is crystal clear: India’s 70 crore women are the nation’s greatest power.”

Rahul Gandhi made a strong pitch for women’s empowerment, urging young women to break free from societal restrictions and assert their independent identity.

He highlighted women as the nation’s greatest foundation while sharply criticising traditional constraints imposed on them.

Rahul Gandhi declared that the true strength of the country lies in its female population.

“I am often asked about India’s greatest strength, and while people give various answers, my view is clear that the 70 crore women of India are the nation’s biggest strength and asset,” he said, refraining from discussing mainstream political topics. People & Society

He highlighted that women naturally possess immense empathy, sensitivity, and strength, making them indispensable to the nation’s progress.

Expressing strong disapproval of traditional frameworks, the Leader of Opposition criticised the Manusmriti for confining women to restrictive roles.

He noted that ‘Manusmriti’ (the ancient text) suggests a woman must live for her father in childhood, her husband in youth, and her sons in old age, adding that the notion that women should never be independent is unacceptable and shameful.

He urged women to rise above being defined solely by traditional roles such as daughter, wife, or mother.

While acknowledging these roles are important, Rahul Gandhi asserted, “You are not dependent on anyone. Your relationships do not define your core identity—you have an individual identity of your own.”

He expressed concern over societal constraints and educational discrimination faced by young women despite



their notable achievements across diverse fields.

He said that the underlying design of the Manusmriti aimed to prevent women from ever achieving independence or self-reliance, subjecting them to external control.

During the event, a student named Nisha brought forth the critical grievances and plight of tribal students before him.

The student informed Rahul Gandhi that tribal students have been on a hunger strike in Pune’s Manjari, and handed over a formal memorandum detailing their demands.

Addressing the gathering, the student said, “This story isn’t just about one Nisha—it represents all tribal students, the entire nation, and Maharashtra, which is why I am presenting it in Marathi.”

Pointing out the critical condition of her protesting peers, Nisha mentioned that two female students and male students are on the hunger strike, with one female student having to be hospitalised due to deteriorating health.

She said that when their representatives visited the Mantralaya, the Tribal Development Minister expressed helplessness, claiming the matter rested solely in the hands of the Chief Minister.

She strongly asserted that if Ministers cannot deliver development for tribal students, they have no moral right to hold office.

Nisha highlighted that central kitchens established in tribal schools prepare food at one location and transport it 70 to 80 km away. This leads to food spoilage and incidents of food poisoning among students.

She pointed out that tribal ashram schools lack basic facilities such as beds and drinking water.

Due to these poor conditions, three students recently died from snakebites (Bungarus/Krait species) in Gadchiroli, while three others are undergoing treatment in hospitals.

She demanded that the state government provide at least Rs 1 crore in com-

pensation to the deceased students’ families.

Tribal hostels in Pune are located in far-off suburbs like Manjari and Kondhwa rather than central areas, forcing students to waste nearly four hours daily in transit, leaving little time for studies.

She noted that students have been fasting for the past ten days to highlight these demands.

She raised concerns about students residing in tribal hostels, specifically mentioning female students from Gadchiroli who return home during Diwali and are subjected to mandatory pregnancy tests upon returning a month later.

When Rahul Gandhi asked why she hadn’t invited him to the protest site, Nisha extended a direct invitation.

Accepting the invite, the Congress leader assured her, “Invite me to the protest site, and I will come. My presence will build pressure on the administration.”

Expressing his gratitude to Pune for the warm welcome, Rahul Gandhi noted that women independently own only eight per cent of property in India and said that the dreams and journeys of the nation’s 70 crore women represent the true pride and wealth of the country.

Several other female students also shared their views during the event.

The Pune interaction was the fourth edition of the ‘Chatron Ki Gunj’ initiative, organised against the backdrop of recent youth protests in Delhi.

Large crowds of students from across Maharashtra assembled in Pune for the event, accompanied by senior state Congress leadership.

Alongside his interaction with students, Rahul Gandhi also met with state party leaders in Pune to review organisational strategies and encourage party cadres.

The ‘Chatron Ki Gunj’ event, which had seen extensive preparations by the Congress over recent days, was attended by several senior party leaders. Social Issues & Advocacy

Local authorities deployed heavy security around the venue following clashes between members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) in Pune a day before the program, ensuring the event concluded without further disruption.

Liverpool Officials Meet CM Revanth in London, Explore Partnership With TG Govt in Tech, Life Sciences,...

Hyderabad: Liverpool City Development and Liverpool Football Club said on Saturday that they would explore a strategic partnership with the Telangana government, with the proposed collaboration focusing on life sciences, technology, sports and the creative economy. The proposed partnership is expected to open up opportunities for collaboration, investment and knowledge exchange between Liverpool and Telangana across the identified sectors. A delegation from Liverpool is scheduled to visit Hyderabad in October to take forward the discussions and formally establish the partnership.

Susan Finnegan and Nuala Gallagher from Liverpool City Development, along with representatives of Liverpool Football Club, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in London on Saturday and expressed keen interest in establishing a strategic partnership with the Telangana government.

Meanwhile, K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister’s adviser and ex-officio special chief secretary, CMO, who is part of the delegation to the UK, visited Imperial College London on Saturday. During his meeting with



Amanda Wolthuisen, vice-president for strategic engagement and chief of staff to the president, and Rosanna Gillespie, senior international relations manager (South Asia and Australasia), Ramakrishna Rao presented the strengths of Telangana and outlined the opportunities for collaboration between Telangana and the prestigious institution.

Wolthuisen expressed interest in exploring several opportunities, including the possibility of offering short-term and executive education programmes in Hyderabad, besides collaborative partnerships in research and exchange programmes.

Rao invited the Imperial College representatives to Hyderabad for the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held on December 7, 8 and 9. Imperial College London is a world-leading university specialising in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) and business, and the proposed engagement is expected to create opportunities for academic, research and knowledge partnerships with Telangana.

Congress govt resorting to land grab under prohibited lands list: Ex-Minister Puvvada

Khammam: Former Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar accused the Congress government of attempting to plunder public assets on the pretext of prohibited lands list and that the party has become synonymous with land grabbing.

Speaking at a BRS Athmeeya Sammelanam here on Saturday he alleged that the government was plotting to loot lands under the guise of Bhu Bharathi while misleading the public. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy was trying to evade responsibility by merely apologising.

He demanded that the government explain to the people how the extent of 22A prohibited lands, which previously stood at eight to nine lakh acres, has now surged to one crore acres. The government duty bound to protect public assets was acting negligently, he noted.

Smriti Irani urges Rahul Gandhi to back women’s quota

BJP general secretary Smriti Irani urged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to back the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures. She also asked him to support singing the full version of Vande Mataram at Congress headquarters

New Delhi: BJP general secretary Smriti Irani on Sunday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to validate his words on supporting women by backing the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures and also organising the singing of a full version of Vande Mataram that includes invocation of Goddess Durga at his party office.

Interacting with girl students at his ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’ outreach programme in Pune on Saturday, Gandhi urged girl students to “smash patriarchy” and lashed out at the “Manusmriti mindset”, claiming that it forces a woman to remain under the authority of male relatives at every stage of her life.

The former Congress president also said violence is used in society to prevent women from progressing and that 80 per cent of them face harassment.

“Since he has invoked religion, I have a request to that prominent leader of the Congress. The verses of Vande Mataram, some of which were halted at the Congress headquarters, contain a reference to Goddess Durga,” Irani, the newly appointed BJP national general secretary, told reporters here.

She was referring to the row over the Congress’ decision to sing only two stanzas of the



‘Vande Mataram’ at their party programmes, which the BJP has decried as an “insult” to the national song.

Hitting back at Gandhi, Irani said, “Our religious ethos of Hindus not only upholds the tenet of ‘Yatra naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devatah (where women are honoured, divinity resides)’, but we also worship Goddesses like Bhagwati, Lakshmi and Saraswati.” “We worship Goddess Durga as the embodiment of ‘Shakti’ (divine power). I urge that the full rendition of Vande Mataram, including the verses invoking Goddess Durga, be performed at the Congress headquarters,” she said.

Gandhi can put his words spoken yesterday in support of women and their leadership into action by backing the “immediate implementation” of reservation for women and organising the rendition of the full version of Vande Mataram

at the Congress headquarters, Irani said.

A Bill ensuring 33 per cent reservation for women across the country to enhance the dignity of Parliament through their presence has already been passed, the former Union minister said.

“Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi stated at an event that he supports women. Since a key Congress leader has spoken in support of women and women’s leadership, I humbly request him to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s initiative to swiftly implement the bill granting 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament,” she said.



Ajay Kumar challenged Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who claims that the government waived 100 percent farm loans, to come to any village and engage in an open debate to prove the claim.

Despite the looming risk of a water crisis in Khammam

district due to the impact of El Niño, the three ministers failed to focus on the critical issue. The RCC lining of Sitarama project canal collapsed just a year after its construction; the government must take responsibility and answer to the public, he demanded.

Congress ministers and MLAs have been engaged in infighting and criticising one another. Ministers and MLAs from Khammam district have remained silent regarding the comments made by Minister Konda Surekha’s daughter against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he said.

The Congress party made unrealistic promises during the elections and failed to implement even a single promise fully after coming to power. The public should teach the Congress party a fitting lesson on the next Assembly elections, Ajay Kumar said.

The party leaders RJC Krishna, Pagadala Nagaraju, Bachu Vijay Kumar, Anugula Rakesh Reddy, K Nagabhushanam, MA Qamar and others were present.

Naidu Asks TD Cadre to Boost Grassroots Connect via Outreach Drive

Vijayawada:Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has asked his party leaders, legislators and workers to intensify their engagement with the people and make the “Intintiki Telugu Desam – Two years of trust – development and welfare” campaign an effective link between the government and the public.

The campaign completed its 25th day, with Telugu Desam leaders and workers visiting 2,53,832 households across Andhra Pradesh.

With the latest round of visits, the party has reached upto 71.80 lakh houses so far, crossing the 70-lakh milestone and expanding its door-to-door outreach across all constituencies.

Naidu has stressed that TD legislators, leaders and cadre should personally visit every household in their constituencies and establish a direct link with the people rather than



depending on indirect communication. Public respect, he averred, is the real strength of the TD.

“Keep your personal ego aside, remain humble and interact with citizens with sensitivity,” the party chief advised the functionaries.

The campaign is aimed at taking the development and welfare initiatives of the alliance government directly to families.

Naidu has made it clear that the exercise should not turn into a publicity campaign. “Party representatives must listen to the people, understand their concerns and assess public sentiments.” They are collecting feedback on local requirements, infrastructure facilities and problems faced by residents and coordinating with party leaders and elected representatives for necessary follow-up.

By maintaining direct contact with families, party workers are expected to ensure that the government schemes and policies are implemented smoothly and that genuine grievances are brought to the notice of the authorities without delay.

Modi Urges Space Startups To Expand Into Agriculture, Environment



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday interacted with the CEOs and founders of 20 space start-ups at Seva Teerth, the Prime Minister’s Office, as India seeks to strengthen its private space industry and expand its presence in the global space sector.

Modi urged space companies to explore new applications of their technologies and focus on how these can make people’s lives easier. He assured them of the government’s full support and urged them to explore how space technology can be used in agriculture, livestock management, dairy, the environment and other areas that affect people’s everyday lives.

The interaction was attended by CEOs of leading companies in the space sector working in diverse fields, including rocket building, reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicles, avionics, satellites, advanced propulsion systems, space and defence intelligence, space-debris removal, and AI-powered hyperlocal weather and climate intelligence.

The Prime Minister congratulated the leaders of the space sector for showing courage and taking the lead in a new area. He said the confidence shown by the sector had strengthened the vision behind opening the space sector to private participation.

Modi noted that many countries either cannot invest in the space sector or do not wish to invest in it and this gives India a major opportunity to rapidly strengthen its position in the global space sector.

The Prime Minister encouraged the space companies to explore new applications of their technologies and focus on how these can make people’s lives easier.

He suggested greater collaboration between space-sector companies and companies working in other sectors. Companies working on space debris, he said, could work with environmental organisations to scale up their technologies. Similarly, space technology companies working with the agriculture sector could collaborate with agricultural universities and departments to help farmers make better-informed decisions and maximise their output.

The Prime Minister called for creating an ecosystem and an environment where, when the world thinks of space, it looks towards India. He said that India’s space sector can act as a magnet to attract global talent, companies and investment to the country.

Calling for closer collaboration with “Atal Tinkering Labs”, he said that this can create curiosity and interest in the space sector among young children from an early age.

The interaction saw participation from CEOs and Founders of 20 startups working in space sector, including Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos, Pixxel, Dhruva Space, GalaxEye, PierSight, Bellatrix Aerospace, Digantara, SatSure, Suhora Technologies, Manastu Space, Astrobase, TakeMe2Space, VyomIC, CosmoServe Space, OrbitAID Aerospace, SkyServe (Hyspace), Serendipity Space, Vassar Labs and mistEO.

The CEOs highlighted the rapid progress being made by India’s private space industry and shared their vision for its future.

Shah: Tri-State Security Grid To Fortify ‘Chicken’s Neck’



Kolkata: Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Centre had set up a triangular security grid around the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the “Chicken’s Neck”, and would build an administrative complex on an 80-acre plot in Siliguri to further strengthen security in the region.

Shah said the security grid would operate from three bases — in West Bengal, Bihar and Assam — with enhanced surveillance, deployment and resources around the corridor, which connects the northeastern states with the rest of the country and lies close to multiple international borders. He made the announcement after launching several security infrastructure projects of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at Ranidanga in Siliguri.

“The Narendra Modi government has recognised the importance of national security of the Siliguri Corridor very well,” Shah said. He said the Centre had strengthened its security presence in the area and periodically conducted exercises such as “Teesta Prahar”.Shah praised the SSB for guarding unfenced stretches of India’s international borders and said the Centre was committed to making the strategically sensitive corridor more secure.

He also attacked former chief minister Mamata Banerjee, alleging that her government had repeatedly failed to provide land required for border fencing and security infrastructure.

Shah said the Centre had faced difficulties in acquiring hundreds of acres for strengthening border security during the previous government. He thanked Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari for facilitating the transfer of land required by the BSF and SSB and said 1,129 acres had been made available.

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From Hyderabad to Australia: Raj Kumar Saini’s Political Journey An Indian Political Voice Abroad as Founder of ‘The Republican’

Party Matters Discussed with Modi, Albanese, KCR and Chandrababu; Latest Meeting with Amit Shah
Analysis by Y. L. Ashok, Senior Journalist

New Delhi/Hyderabad, August 20: It is no ordinary achievement for an Indian to establish a political party on foreign soil. It is even more noteworthy when someone with roots in Hyderabad builds a political platform in Australia. The political journey of Raj Kumar Saini, founder of The Republican in Australia, is now attracting considerable attention.

Raj Kumar Saini appears to have begun his political journey with the belief that Indians settled abroad should not only achieve economic success but also increase their participation in the social and political systems of their adopted countries. His party can be viewed as an effort to build a political platform in Australia centred on Indian culture, Sanatana Dharma, community service and democratic values.



Hyderabad Roots and a Political Step in Australia

Originally from Hyderabad, Telangana, Raj Kumar Saini has continued to maintain a strong connection with his Indian roots, particularly with Telangana, despite settling in Australia.

Establishing a party abroad is one challenge; taking it to the people is another. A clear policy direction, continuous public engagement, an understanding of local issues, transparent political practices and a commitment to community service will ultimately determine the party’s future.

The Party Raised with Prime Minister Modi.

Another notable aspect of Raj Kumar Saini’s political journey is his statement that he discussed matters relating to his party with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At a time when India–Australia relations are growing stronger strategically, economically and through people-to-people connections, the increasing political engagement of the Indian community in Australia is gaining significance.

state’s subsequent political development—on the political participation of Indians abroad, party building and social issues can be regarded as another important aspect of Saini’s political journey.

Having been born and raised in Telangana, Saini appears to believe that his experience of closely observing the state’s political developments provides valuable background for his political initiative in Australia.

Party Matters Discussed with Chandrababu Naidu

Raj Kumar Saini has stated that he also discussed matters relating to his party with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Given Chandrababu Naidu’s experience in technology, diaspora engagement, development, investment and maintaining connections with Telugu communities worldwide, Saini appears to regard the interaction as particularly significant.

The fact that a person from the Telugu states, seeking to build a political party in Australia, has held discussions with prominent political leaders from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh adds a distinctive dimension to his journey.

Latest Meeting with Amit Shah Draws Fresh Attention

Against the backdrop of these developments, Raj Kumar Saini’s meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence in New Delhi has assumed greater significance.

During the one-on-one meeting, Saini said they discussed politics, Sanatana Dharma, Indian values, community service initiatives, and the social and political participation of Indians living abroad.

He expressed his gratitude to Amit Shah for giving him valuable time and extending a warm welcome. Saini described the interaction as warm, productive and highly encouraging.

Focus on Sanatana Dharma and Community Service

The issues highlighted by Raj Kumar Saini indicate that Sanatana Dharma, Indian culture and community service hold an important place in his political vision. However, expanding political activities in a foreign society requires not only preserving Indian culture but also respecting Australia’s multicultural character, its laws and its democratic values.

Community service can provide a strong foundation for political engagement.

A political platform can earn public support only by working among the people, understanding their concerns, striving to resolve their problems and encouraging young people to participate in the democratic process.

The Real Challenge Goes Beyond Establishing a Party

The establishment of The Republican is only the beginning of Raj Kumar Saini’s political journey. The greater challenge lies in taking the party to the people, developing clear policies, proposing practical solutions to local problems and earning public trust.

In a multicultural democracy such as Australia, several questions remain to be answered: How will the party formulate policies that address not only the concerns of Indians but also those of the wider Australian community? To what extent will it involve young people, women, professionals and recently arrived Indian migrants? How much space will it be able to secure within Australia’s political system? These are matters that only the future will determine.

An Indian Political Voice on Foreign Soil

As the number and influence of Indians around the world continue to grow, their political participation in their adopted countries is also becoming increasingly important. At a time when people of Indian origin are playing significant roles in local politics across many countries, Raj Kumar Saini’s establishment of a political party in Australia can be viewed as part of this broader global development.

A journey that began in Hyderabad has now reached Australia’s political arena. Establishing The Republican, raising party-related matters with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, explaining the party’s objectives to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, discussing political matters with former Telangana Chief Minister KCR and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and most recently meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah—these developments have given Raj Kumar Saini’s political journey a distinctive identity.

However, establishing a party is only the beginning. This political journey will gain its true meaning only by winning the confidence of the people, advancing clear policies, maintaining a sustained commitment to community service and strengthening democratic values.

The attempt by a Hyderabad native to establish a political party on Australian soil and create a platform for the voices of Indian Australians is undoubtedly distinctive. Its real political test, however, will be whether this initiative can grow into a strong people’s movement.

The latest meeting with Amit Shah represents another important milestone in Raj Kumar Saini’s journey. In which direction will this journey from Hyderabad to Australia now proceed? To what extent will The Republican make its mark on Australian politics? Only time will provide the answers

VIJAYAWADA STRIVES TO BECOME ROAD SAFETY MODEL

VIJAYAWADA: Vijayawada is set to embark on a comprehensive road-safety initiative aimed at making the city a model town in road safety, with a target of reducing road accident deaths and injuries by 10 to 15 per cent. NTR district collector Dr G. Lakshmisha said on Friday that active participation from all sections of society was essential to achieve the goal. He said the Ideal Town on Road Safety project would bring together government departments, the police, private organisations, educational institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders to work in coordination to reduce road fatalities.

Dr Lakshmisha unveiled posters related to the project at the Collectorate here on Friday. The initiative is being taken up with the Honda India Foundation as the CSR partner and TRAX — Road Safety NGO as the implementing agency, in



coordination with the Transport and Police departments. The collector said the project would

focus on four key pillars — engineering, enforcement, education and emergency care. Under the engineering component, infrastructure deficiencies at identified black spots would be assessed and rectified to improve road safety.

Traffic rules would be strictly enforced through the creation of zero-tolerance zones, while road-safety awareness programmes would be conducted among students and the general public. As many as 105 schools and 14 colleges, covering around 70,000 students, would be brought under the awareness campaign.

The campaign would focus on responsible road-user behaviour, including helmet and seat-belt use, lane discipline and pedestrian safety. Training would also be provided to first responders so that timely basic assistance could be offered to accident victims during emergencies.



Monday 24, August, 2026

MODI’S OUTREACH TO YOUTH

The Prime Minister's Independence Day address reflects the flavour of the season, but the larger question is whether youth discontent will be viewed merely as an issue of jobs, education and technology, or whether the government is willing to understand it as a deeper demand for accountability and responsiveness

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s focus on the youth in his Independence Day address reflects the flavour of the season. It acknowledges the growing restlessness of Gen Z, but it remains to be seen whether the government will walk the talk on the big promises made from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Symbolic gestures and grand announcements would mean nothing if not followed by concrete, measurable action plans. The long-pending reforms in the education sector will help the youth prepare for jobs in emerging technology and innovation economies. Modi’s outreach to the youth included a promise to offer free online coaching for competitive exams and AI skilling programmes in an attempt to address post-globalisation anxieties. The big shift in the Prime Minister’s political messaging came days after Gen Z-led protests over exam paper leaks, and unemployment forced the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister. Addressing the challenges facing the youth, from employment worries to the incursion of artificial intelligence in everyday life, Modi promised that more than one crore youth would be provided AI skills in a “mission mode” drive over the coming year and the country’s digital public infrastructure would be used to provide free online coaching to students wishing to take various competitive exams. Also, there will be a nationwide sports talent hunt among children between five and 15 years of age ahead of the 2036 Olympic Games. The problem is that these themes have appeared repeatedly in election manifestos, government budgets and policy promises across states.

Employment, education infrastructure, online learning and, increasingly, AI have become recurring features of political messaging. The real question is not what is being promised, but how much of it is actually being implemented. The larger question is whether youth discontent will be viewed merely as an issue of jobs, education and technology, or whether the government is willing to understand it as a deeper demand for accountability and responsiveness. The Mood of the Nation tracker has been highlighting that inflation and unemployment are major concerns and need to be resolved. The youth would account for a third of voters in the 2029 general elections. Since they are bound to influence the outcome of the polls, the issues that concern them—education reforms being one of them—must be addressed on a mission mode. The biggest structural weakness of India’s education system begins much before competitive examinations. It has traditionally rewarded memorisation rather than understanding; marks rather than competence; examination performance rather than creativity; conformity rather than questioning; coaching rather than independent learning. The irony is that India can produce millions of students who obtain degrees while many do not acquire adequate communication, quantitative reasoning, problem-solving, digital or workplace skills. The multi-crore coaching industry has become a parallel education system and is particularly powerful because the formal education system does not adequately prepare students for high-stakes examinations.

Autorickshaw unions call off strike as Telangana govt agrees to fare hike

Autorickshaw unions in Hyderabad have withdrawn their indefinite strike after the State Government agreed to revise fares, which have remained unchanged since 2012. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar announced plans for an aggregator app, mandatory yellow plates for bike taxis, and financial assistance for converting old autos into electric vehicles.

Hyderabad: The autorickshaw unions called off their strike following the State Government’s assurance to increase the fares. A decision to this effect was taken after transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar along with senior officials held talks with autorickshaw union leaders on Sunday night.

As autorickshaw fares have not been increased since 2012, it was agreed to increase the fares. However, the decision on new fares will be taken after seeking a report from the stakeholders, the Minister said.

“On its behalf, the Government will introduce an aggregator app on the lines of Ola and Uber. It will initiate measures to launch the app in association with the IT department,” Prabhakar said.

During the meeting, the Minister said the State Government was positive towards their demands.

The government would make yellow plates mandatory for two-wheelers transporting passengers through Rapido, Ola, Uber and others, he said.

“There are no plans to buy



electric autorickshaws through TGSRTC. It is a false campaign,” Prabhakar clarified.

The Transport Minister said the Government agreed to set up the TGSRTC workers’ welfare board. To this effect, a joint meeting with representatives of the Labour department, Transport department and Autorickshaw unions would be held on September 1 to discuss measures, he added.

“As per the promise made during the elections, we will discuss the issue of Rs. 12,000 assistance for auto workers, taking into consideration the financial situation of the State. These aspects will be discussed with in the Cabinet and a positive decision will be taken,” Prabhakar announced.

The government would provide assistance of Rs 1.50 lakh for converting old diesel and petrol autos into electric autos through retrofitting within the Hyderabad CURE Area. The government had already decided to provide subsidy for purchasing new electric autos, he added.

Harish Rao warns of Assembly disruption, siege Secretariat over 22A list

BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao on Sunday warned that the party would stall the Assembly and lay siege to the Secretariat if the government failed to withdraw genuine private properties from the 22A prohibited list.

Hyderabad: BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao on Sunday warned that the party would stall the Assembly and lay siege to the Secretariat if the government failed to immediately withdraw private properties from the 22A prohibited list. He questioned the indifference of Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to the suffering of Telangana people, as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy pursued real estate interests.

He vowed that the BRS would raise the issue during the upcoming Assembly session and stall it, if the government fails to remove genuine private properties from the 22A list.

“If necessary, we will lay siege to the Secretariat. The BRS is ready for any form of struggle,” he declared.

Addressing a meeting organised by the BRS in support of residents of Tirumala Meadows, Lakshmi Ganapathi and Hemanagar colonies in Boduppal on Sunday, Harish Rao said registered houses and patta lands were being included in the prohibited list to facilitate collection of 30 per cent commissions. He said middle-class families had borrowed money and saved for years to build houses, but were now unable to sell or mortgage them.

Citing a resident’s account, he said a woman had been denied a bank loan to fund her children’s higher education because her house was entered in the 22A list.

The BRS deputy leader stated that the government was reviving provisions of the Urban Land Ceiling Act that had been repealed in 1998 and 2008 and using them to place patta lands under the prohibited category. Referring to the



Revenue Minister’s apology, he demanded that the government remove the affected properties from the list without insisting on applications and take complete responsibility instead of blaming officials.

Harish Rao also alleged that the government had placed around 40 lakh acres across Telangana under the prohibited list, citing claims about large tracts in Yadadri Bhongir district and properties in Hyderabad. He questioned why people should approach government offices or submit applications to rectify an error committed by the government.

He questioned why the government was not initiating inquiries against officials responsible for such a disastrous decision, while ordering CID and vigilance probes into smaller issues involving opposition leaders.

Harish Rao also alleged that the government had removed the 22A prohibited list from the online Bhu Bharati registration portal, apart from blocking Hyderabad list to people. He questioned the government’s motive behind the blocking of the list and demanded that the complete list be restored in the public domain.

Mahua Moves Calcutta HC Against Arrest Warrant

Kolkata: Krishnanagar Trinamul Congress MP Mahua Moitra has moved the Calcutta High Court against the arrest warrant issued by a district court in Nadia for her alleged hate speech.

Her counsel, Arka Kumar Nag, mentioned the matter before a division bench headed by Justice Debangshu Basak of the HC on Friday for an urgent hearing which is expected to come up for hearing next week.

Mr Nag said, “The Krishnanagar Court directed the police to submit its execution report on August 28. Challenging the arrest warrant, we have made an appeal at the HC which has listed it for hearing on August 24.”

On August 19, 3rd judicial magistrate Dibyendu Das of the Krishnanagar Court issued the arrest warrant against the TMC MP for skipping her appearance before him despite repeated summons in the case.

The judge observed in his order, “The series of disobedience of the order of this court goes to show the lackadaisical approach of the accused to comply with the court order and accordingly this court is left with no other option but to issue a warrant of arrest against her.”



BRS to launch campaign against Congress’s 1,000-day betrayal

Not just the promises, but failures of this government in the first 100 days and thereafter, should be taken to the people on a large scale. The Revanth Reddy government has turned out to be an utter flop show after 1,000 days — KT Rama Rao



Hyderabad: Marking 1,000 days of the Congress government in power, the BRS announced a major week-long Statewide campaign from September 2 to highlight the Congress government’s failures and betrayal of the people.

The party working president KT Rama Rao called on the cadre to take the unfulfilled promises and public issues to every village through various formats and programmes.

During a teleconference with senior leaders, elected representatives and the State executive committee on Sunday, Rama Rao gave detailed instructions to the party leaders to organise innovative programmes from September 2. The campaign will focus not only on the Congress’ election promises but also on its administrative failures, corruption, irregularities, and problems faced by different sections of the State.

He reminded them that the Congress came to power by making 420 promises, 13 declarations and six guarantees, with a promise to implement them within 100 days. However, he pointed out that it had failed to fulfil even a single major promise after 1,000 days.

The BRS working president asked the party cadre to distribute “Baaki Cards” (Debt Cards) to remind people about the financial benefits promised by the Congress to various sections, which were not delivered.

“The Congress betrayed every section of the State. It is time that we remind people about its promises and failures in implementation along with pending benefits owed to each section including farmers, agricultural labourers, elderly people, women, students and youth,” he remarked.

Rama Rao particularly called for campaigns at colleges over the alleged non-payment of more than Rs 12,000 crore in fee reimbursement dues. He said the issue was affecting students and their parents. He also asked the party to highlight the Congress government’s failure to provide jobs and fulfil commitments to the youth.

“The BRS has been fighting on issues of students, youth and the unemployed. We must reach out to larger sections of the people once again, to initiate a wider discussion on the ruling Congress over its failed promises,” he added.

The BRS will separately engage auto drivers, women, farmers, tribals, Dalits, BCs, government employees and retired employees, with programmes aimed at highlighting their specific grievances.

Rama Rao stressed that the campaign should cover the government’s overall performance during the 1,000 days rather than remain confined to unfulfilled promises. The party leaders should explain the gap between the Congress’ assurances and its ground reality, he said. He wanted them to explain the numerous challenges faced by people due to failed policies and atrocities of the Congress government.

“Not just the promises, but failures of this government in the first 100 days and thereafter, should be taken to the people on a large scale. The Revanth Reddy government has turned out to be an utter flop show after 1,000 days,” he said. He urged that the disparity between the promises made by the government and its actual performance be explained to the public.

Rama Rao also directed leaders to focus on social media and devise innovative campaigns to reach younger voters and communicate the government’s failures in formats accessible to the new generation.

MPs, MLAs, MLCs, general secretaries, constituency in-charges, former public representatives and former corporation and Zilla Parishad chairpersons, along with the entire party cadre, have been asked to participate in the campaign in their respective areas. He called for mobilisation at constituency, mandal, village and ward levels. He urged the cadre to make the week-long campaign a statewide effort.

“My Words – My Story”: Aims to Strengthen Reading Culture Among Children

Nirmal District : The “India Gets Reading Campaign 8.0 – 2026”, being conducted under the auspices of Room to Read India, aims to develop joyful and regular reading habits among children while strengthening foundational literacy and language development.

As part of this year’s campaign, a wall poster featuring the theme “My Words – My Story” was unveiled by Nirmal District Education Officer Darshanam Bhojanna.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that reading is not merely a foundational skill, but also an important tool for children’s language development, imagination, critical thinking, self-confidence and self-expression. He stated that reading becomes more meaningful and enjoyable when children read stories and books in languages that are close to their homes, communities and life experiences.

He urged teachers to effectively conduct the daily activities planned under the campaign in all government schools across the district and make the programme a grand success.

India Gets Reading 8.0 continues to be a major national-level initiative promoting a culture of reading. Its key objectives include developing regular reading habits among children, strengthening reading comprehension and language development, and increasing access to diverse and quality children’s literature. The campaign also aims to create sustained demand for quality children’s books in Indian languages.

As part of the campaign, teachers, librarians, parents, education department officials and other stakeholders will play a key role. Priority will be given to increasing the use of quality children’s books in schools and libraries, strengthening the role of teachers and librarians in selecting books, and encouraging the development of children’s literature in local languages.

Through the 2026 campaign, efforts will also be made to identify and encourage emerging and talented writers and illustrators who demonstrate creativity in writing and illustrating for children, thereby further strengthening the children’s literature sector.

Calling for collective efforts to develop life-long reading habits among children, the District Education Officer said the campaign is being conducted with the inspiration that “Every child should read – read with joy – and express their voice and their story.”

District Quality Coordinator Narsaiah, Com-



munity Mobilisation Coordinator Praveen, Assistant Statistical Coordinator Limbadri, Room to Read India Trust District Coordinator Vijay Kumar, and office staff participated in the programme.

School Games Federation Meetings

The Nirmal District School Games Federation (SGF) meeting will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the NTR Mini Stadium to discuss the conduct of district- and state-level sports competitions for the year 2026, District Education Officer Darshanam Bhojanna and District SGF Organizing Secretary Rathod Laxman said.

They stated that Physical Education Teachers interested in organizing the 2026 district- and state-level sports competitions should bring their proposals with the permission of their respective headmasters.

The District Education Officer also instructed the headmasters of schools to relieve the Physical Education Teachers of Nirmal district so that they can attend the meeting.

Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam Inaugurates Its Second Branch in Secunderabad

Hyderabad, 21 August 2026: Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam – Multi-Speciality Ayurveda Hospitals, Hyderabad, inaugurated its second branch in Secunderabad today, marking another significant milestone in its journey towards making authentic Ayurveda and holistic healthcare more accessible to the community.

The new centre was inaugurated on 21 August 2026 at 10:30 AM, in the presence of distinguished guests, doctors, well-wishers and members of the Art of Living community.

Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam began its journey in Gachibowli nearly nine years ago, with a vision of providing authentic Ayurveda-based healthcare along with a holistic approach to physical, mental and emotional well-being. Over the years, the centre has grown through the trust and support of patients, the medical fraternity, the Art of Living community and well-wishers.

The new Secunderabad branch has been established in response to the growing demand from people in Secunderabad and surrounding areas who have been seeking access to quality Ayurvedic healthcare closer to their homes.

The hospital offers Ayurvedic consultations, Panchakarma therapies, specialised treatments, lifestyle guidance, Yoga and holistic wellness services, with a focus on personalised and patient-centred care.

Speaking on the occasion, the management of Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam said, “This second branch is not merely an expansion of our hospital; it is the fulfilment of a long-standing aspiration of many members of our com-



munity. The love, encouragement and blessings we have received over the years have given us the confidence to take this next step. We remain committed to serving society through authentic Ayurveda and holistic healthcare.”

The hospital also expressed its gratitude to Sri Sri Ravishankar Guruji and the Art of Living community for their continued inspiration, support and blessings throughout its journey.

With the new centre, Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam aims to reach a larger section of society and promote Ayurveda as a comprehensive approach to preventive healthcare, treatment and long-term wellness.

About Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam:

Shreemaatha Aarogya Dhaamam is a Multi-Speciality Ayurveda Hospital in Hyderabad offering Ayurveda, Panchakarma, Yoga and holistic wellness services. With its new Secunderabad branch, the organisation continues its mission of making authentic, compassionate and integrated Ayurvedic healthcare accessible to more people.

Jindal Steel, IIT Hyderabad to Establish Centre of Excellence for Advanced Steel Solutions

SANGAREDDY Correspondent, August 20, 2026: Jindal Steel and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Jindal Steel Centre of Excellence (CoE) for High-Strength, Value-Added and Value-Engineered Steel Products and Solutions on the IIT Hyderabad campus.

The first-of-its-kind centre will focus on accelerating the application and adoption of advanced steel solutions across infrastructure, engineering, construction and strategic industrial sectors. It will combine IITH's technical capabilities with Jindal Steel's manufacturing, metallurgical and engineering expertise to develop and demonstrate applications for high-strength, value-engineered steels.

The solutions are expected to offer



higher performance, lower material consumption, reduced weight, faster execution, improved durability and better lifecycle economics. Applications will include buildings and bridges, penstocks and large-diameter pipes, defence equipment, heavy machinery, power plants, refineries, transportation and other critical industrial sectors.

Jindal Steel will invest in developing the physical centre on the IIT Hyderabad campus. The facility will serve as a hub for application development, technical demonstrations, training, industry engagement and knowledge sharing.

IIT Hyderabad Director Prof. B.S. Murty

said the centre would strengthen IITH's role in promoting advanced steel solutions across India's engineering, infrastructure and industrial sectors. He added that the initiative would enable faculty and students to work closely with industry on real-world applications, demonstrating how high-strength, value-engineered steels can improve efficiency, performance and sustainability.

Jindal Steel Managing Director V.R. Sharma said the partnership would help expand the use of high-strength, value-engineered steel across India. He said the centre would showcase solutions that are

stronger, lighter, faster and more efficient across a wide range of applications, and would accelerate their adoption in real-world projects.

The partnership will also include application development programmes, workshops, symposia, industry-academia training, demonstration projects, student internships and placements, academic modules and other industry engagement initiatives. The centre will work with industry stakeholders, government agencies and end users to support technical evaluation and facilitate the large-scale adoption of advanced steel solutions.

Kothagudem Government Medical College Works to Be Expedited

Collector Ankit directs officials to complete remaining works by December

August 21, 2026: District Collector Ankit on Friday inspected the construction works of the Kothagudem Government Medical College being built in Lakshmidevipalli mandal and directed the concerned officials to speed up the works and complete the remaining construction in a planned manner by December.

The Collector reviewed the progress of the construction works at the site and instructed the officials to ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated time without any delay. He emphasized that the construction should be carried out strictly in accordance with prescribed quality standards.

Collector Ankit inspected various blocks under construction, including the boys' hostel, girls' hostel, classrooms, laboratory block, main college buildings and hospital facilities. He sought details from the officials regarding the progress of each component and directed them to further accelerate the pace of work.

Officials informed the Collector that the construction of the boys' and girls' hostels had reached the final stage. The Collector directed them to complete the remaining hostel works within one month and make them ready for use.

Reviewing the medical college layout map, Ankit enquired about the internal roads, library, classrooms, laboratories, student accommodation and other infrastructure facilities being developed on the campus. He instructed the officials to ensure that all necessary facilities are made available to students.

Officials informed the Collector that the Kothagudem Government Medical



College has an annual intake capacity of 150 MBBS seats and that teaching activities are currently being conducted at the Nursing College.

The Collector also reviewed the teaching facilities, hostel accommodation, classrooms, laboratories, drinking water and other basic amenities being provided to students at the Nursing College. He asked whether students were receiving all the required facilities and whether any additional infrastructure was needed.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Ankit said that the construction of the Government Medical College was a project of great importance to the district. He directed the officials to fix a specific timeline for every work and move forward with a clear action plan.

He instructed the officials to continuously monitor the progress of the works, resolve issues immediately and ensure that all remaining construction activities are completed by December.

The Government Medical College is being constructed over an area of about 25 acres. The Collector directed the officials to ensure that all necessary infrastructure is provided for students, teaching staff and medical personnel. He also stressed that quality standards must be strictly maintained in the construction works while keeping future requirements in view.

Officials from the medical, engineering and construction departments, Nursing College authorities and representatives of the construction agency participated in the inspection

TGE JAC Holds Preparatory Meeting for Maha Dharna in Sangareddy

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : August 21, 2026: A preparatory meeting was held under the auspices of the Sangareddy district TGE JAC to ensure the success of the Maha Dharna scheduled for August 27. The meeting was held at the TNGOs Association building in Sangareddy, where leaders discussed employees' issues, pending demands and strategies to mobilise employees for the protest.

TGE JAC Chairman Jaweed Ali called upon employees from across the district to participate in large numbers and make the Maha Dharna a success. He said the protest was being organised to press for the scrapping of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), strengthening of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and Employees Health Scheme (EHS), besides resolving other pending issues.

He said the primary objective of the JAC was to bring employees' genuine problems to the notice of the government and work towards their resolution.

Later, TGE JAC leaders met the District Collector and Superintendent of Police and submitted a representation regarding the Maha Dharna. They requested the authorities to extend necessary cooperation regarding permissions, security arrangements and other requirements for the programme.



TGE JAC General Secretary Vaidyanath and Co-Chairman Gangadhar said that employees needed to fight unitedly for the resolution of their long-pending issues. They appealed to employees, union leaders and representatives to attend the Maha Dharna on August 27 in large numbers.

The meeting decided to conduct an extensive awareness campaign across the district and mobilise employees to participate in the protest. Leaders of various employee associations attended the meeting.

Rahul's 7-hour Sit-in Protest Gets Pellet vVctim an FIR

New Delhi: High drama unfolded at Parliament Street police station on Friday as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi staged a nearly seven-hour sit-in demanding an FIR over the alleged pellet-gun injuries suffered by a 19-year-old protester. The standoff ended in the evening after Delhi Police registered a case, which Gandhi described as the “first step towards justice”. Gandhi reached the police station with Sahil Lochab and his mother after first approaching Mandir Marg police station to seek registration of the case. When the demand was not accepted, he met deputy commissioner of police (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma at Parliament Street police station, which also houses the DCP’s office.

In visuals released by the Congress, Gandhi is seen asking joint commissioner of police (New Delhi Range) Nupur Prasad and Sharma to register an FIR immediately and showing them Lochab’s injuries. After the officers refused, Gandhi said he was prepared to stage a dharna outside the station for “15, 20 or 30 days” and walked out of the room. Gandhi then began a sit-in inside the police station and said he would not leave until an FIR was registered. The protest came exactly a month after he staged a demonstration outside the Prime Minister’s residence.

“We are only saying that an FIR must be lodged. Sahil is here and his mother is accompanying him. Till an FIR is registered, we will not budge from here,” Gandhi said. Gandhi alleged that officials had told him the FIR could not be registered because there were “orders from the top”. “The police personnel here wanted to register the FIR, but there was a brake on justice from above,” he said, claiming that approval had to come from senior authorities, including Union home secretary Govind Mohan and Union home minister Amit Shah.

The protest drew senior Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Kumari Selja. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav and members of the Indian Youth Congress and the NSUI also arrived, leading to a heavy rush in the area. Security was strengthened with the deployment of police and Rapid Action Force personnel. The protest ended nearly seven hours later when police informed Gandhi that an FIR had been registered against unknown persons under Sections 118 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The provisions deal with voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt using dangerous weapons or means and acts endangering the life or personal safety of others.

Emerging from the police station in the evening, Gandhi said the delay raised questions about the functioning of the justice system. “We arrived here at around 11.30 am. It is now almost 7 pm, and only then has the FIR been reg-



istered,” he said. “This is the first step towards justice. An FIR has been registered. Look at how long it took,” Gandhi said, pointing out that nearly a month had passed since Lochab was injured. Gandhi said pellets remained lodged in Lochab’s body, including three in his eye and several near his heart, and claimed that the youth had lost vision in one eye. “This is a police station right in the heart of New Delhi, and justice is not being delivered here. Now imagine what happens at a police station in a village or a small town,” he said. Lochab said Gandhi’s intervention had been crucial in getting his complaint registered. “It took eight hours to register the FIR, and perhaps it wouldn’t have been registered at all if the LoP hadn’t supported me,” he said. Lochab later hugged Gandhi, and the two displayed a copy of the FIR. The case was registered nearly a month after the incident and following repeated attempts by Lochab to lodge his complaint. Sources said he had submitted a written complaint, accompanied by lawyers, on August 14 but received no acknowledgement from police. The episode also triggered a sharp attack from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who accused the BJP-led government of shedding “crocodile tears” over nationalism while failing to protect the country’s youth. “Those shedding crocodile tears over nationalism are, in reality, the biggest enemies of the country’s youth,” Kharge said in a post on X. Kharge questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s silence over the alleged police action against the protesters and accused Shah of avoiding accountability. “Amit Shah didn’t show up in Parliament for 19 days. The country wasn’t told who ordered the firing of pellet guns on students and why such brutality was necessary against our youth,” he said. “Our daughters were groped and beaten with lathis and sticks. But Prime Minister Modi hasn’t uttered a single word to this day, and the home minister has kept dodging accountability,” Kharge said. Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal also attacked the government, alleging that Modi and Shah had shown no concern for the students or listened to their grievances. The students’ protest at Jantar Mantar on July 20 was held over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. The police response has since come under scrutiny amid allegations of a lathi-charge, excessive force and pellet-gun injuries.

Telangana HC reserves verdict on pleas against Speaker’s ruling in Danam Nagender case

Hyderabad: Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Friday reserved judgment on two writ petitions challenging the Legislative Assembly Speaker’s ruling regarding the disqualification of Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender.

The Writ Petitions, filed by BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy and BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, contend that Nagender incurred disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Nagender, who won the Khairatabad seat on a BRS ticket in the 2023 Assembly elections, subsequently switched loyalties to the ruling Congress. The Speaker had earlier held that the legislator had not defected from the BRS party.

The High Court clarified that while arguments regarding similar disqualification pleas against eight other BRS-turned-Congress MLAs—Kale



Yadaiah, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Kadiyam Srihari, Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, T. Prakash Goud, A. Gandhi, Tellam Venkat Rao, and Sanjay Kumar will be heard separately, the proceedings concerning Danam Nagender were wrapped up given the distinct nature of the allegations against him. Senior counsels K.Vivek Reddy and Gandra Mohan Rao appearing for the petitioners argued that an elected MLA contesting a Lok Sabha election on another party’s ticket as Nagender did on a Congress ticket unambiguously amounts to “voluntarily giving up membership” of his original party under the Tenth Sched-

ule. They asserted that the Speaker ought to have considered acts such as active campaigning and filing nominations on the Congress party’s ticket, irrespective of whether a formal resignation letter was submitted. The petitioners’ counsels stressed that anti-defection laws do not depend on whether the stability of the state government is threatened or if the original party’s numbers inside the Assembly are diminished, but rather on whether the elected member voluntarily severed ties with his parent political outfit. Countering the allegations, Senior Counsels A.Venkatesh and Gourav

Agarwal representing Danam Nagender argued that the petitioners’ case rested almost entirely on media reports and photographs.

The allegations stem from a meeting on March 15, 2024, involving the Chief Minister and an AICC General Secretary, during which a Congress scarf was draped around the MLA’s shoulders, leading to assertions that he formally joined the party on March 17, 2024.

They submitted that nowhere in the news reports or photograph submissions did Nagender explicitly state he had joined the Congress. They contended that such circumstantial media coverage was insufficient to establish a voluntary surrender of membership, adding that official Legislative Assembly records continue to show Danam Nagender as a BRS member.

After elaborate submissions, the Division Bench reserved its orders for 16th September.

CM invites Oxford University Professors To Collab With Telangana

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday invited Oxford University to set up a centre in Hyderabad and collaborate with Telangana in executive education and specialised research.

As part of the Telangana Rising delegation, Revanth Reddy visited Oxford University and held discussions with Prof. Maya Tudor of the Blavatnik School of Government and Prof. Faisal Devji of Balliol College.

During his interaction, the Chief Minister outlined the Telangana Rising vision and the state’s plans to transform Hyderabad into a global education hub.

K. Ramakrishna Rao, adviser and ex-officio special chief secretary, CMO, gave a presentation on opportunities available to foreign universities under the Central government’s National Education Policy, with emphasis on the advantages offered by Hyderabad and Telangana.

Professors Tudor and Devji responded positively and offered several contexts for collaboration with the Telangana government.



The delegation invited Oxford representatives to send a team to the Telangana Rising Global Summit, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on December 7, 8 and 9, 2026.

Revanth Reddy also visited the portrait of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Somerville College, where she was an alumna. The portrait was gifted to the college by Sonia Gandhi in 2002.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the Utilita Bowl, run by the GMR Group, along with GMR Group corporate chairman Kiran Kumar Grandhi. The integrated sporting facility includes a golf course, other sporting infrastructure and a hotel.

Revanth Reddy held discussions with Ramakrishna Rao and the GMR global sports unit and invited the group to invest in and contribute to creating sporting infrastructure in Telangana. The Chief Minister was scheduled to visit Emirates Stadium later on Friday to watch an EPL match between Arsenal and Coventry.

GOVT URGES FARMERS TO USE GROUNDWATER SPARINGLY

Hyderabad:After saying that just around seven lakh acres of agricultural land – of the 30-lakh odd acres that are under various projects — can be provided with irrigation water this Kharif crop season, the state government has now turned its focus on the groundwater reserves which, according to it, do not present a satisfactory picture.

On Friday, the government directed officials of various departments, including those from agriculture and panchayat raj, to educate farmers on



careful and judicious use of groundwater for the rest of the crop season. With the requirement for water expected to increase in September and October, the two months when the monsoon is expected to fail even more than what it already has this year so far, farm-

ers must be discouraged from using automatic starter motors for their borewell pumps and extract more water than what is required. The officials were also directed by the government to prepare daily groundwater availability status reports that could be

shared with farmers. The recent rain has not really contributed to the groundwater reserves, and even water levels in reservoirs are not very encouraging, the officials were told. Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, speaking at an interdepartmental meeting on preparedness to face El Nino conditions, also told officials to focus on restoration of the 44,000 tanks and lakes in the state, which can help recharge groundwater tables.

Telangana polytechnic staff boycott talks with govt over merger with YISU

The Telangana Polytechnic Joint Action Committee (TP-JAC), which is opposing the merger of polytechnics with Young India Skills University, insists on written assurances and demands revocation of GO 97 or removal of the clause integrating polytechnics with YISU.

Hyderabad: The Telangana Polytechnic Joint Action Committee (TP-JAC), which is spearheading the protest against the State government’s decision to merge the polytechnics with the Young India Skills University (YISU), has boycotted a meeting with Technical Education department officials here on Friday.

The TP-JAC was called to discuss the issues regarding the merger of the polytechnics with the YISU. However, with no logical or positive conclusion being arrived at in the last two meetings the polytechnic staff boycotted the meeting.



“We are being given oral assurances on protecting the interests of polytechnic students and staff. However, whenever we asked them to give these in writing they did not accept it. We either want the government to either revoke the GO 97 or remove clause 4 – integrating polytechnics with YISU – until then protests will not conclude,” said one of the TP-JAC office bearers.

Meanwhile, Shakti Minister Dr G Vivek Venkatswamy met the protesting students at Government Polytechnic Masab Tank and assured them that ECET would be conducted for polytechnic students. The AIDSO said protest would continue until all demands are met and GO merging polytechnics with Shakti department is withdrawn.

Corporate-Level Healthcare at Government Hospital

MLA Kunamneni's Efforts Bear Fruit
Cath Lab Coming Soon to Kothagudem
Rs.3 Crore Sanctioned for Government General Hospital

Kothagudem, August 21: The long-standing efforts of Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao to provide corporate-level healthcare services to the people of the constituency and the district have finally borne fruit. The government has sanctioned ₹3 crore for the development of Kothagudem Government General Hospital (GGH).

The sanctioned funds will be used to strengthen the hospital with advanced medical facilities. A modern Cath Lab will soon be made available to provide timely treatment to patients suffering from heart-related emergencies. A Critical Care Unit will also be established to provide advanced treatment to critically ill patients.

In addition, an advanced MRI scanning fa-



cility will be introduced at the hospital, helping poor and middle-class patients avoid spending thousands of rupees at private diagnostic centres. A fully equipped 20-bed ICU is also being developed for patients requiring intensive medical care.

Until now, patients suffering from heart attacks and other serious medical emergencies often had to travel to distant cities such as Hyderabad and Khammam for advanced treatment. Delays in receiving timely medical

care had resulted in tragic consequences in several cases.

With advanced healthcare facilities being made available at Kothagudem GGH itself, people of the district are expected to benefit significantly. The development is being seen as a major step towards transforming the government hospital into a centre offering quality and specialised healthcare services.

People of the constituency, along with public organisations and workers, have welcomed the initiative and appreciated MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao's efforts to strengthen healthcare facilities for the poor.

A major boost to government healthcare — Kothagudem GGH set to offer advanced medical services to the people!

Rs. 12 Crore Post Office– Hemachandrapuram Double Road

KOTHAGUDEM: Good news for the people of Kothagudem constituency. The tender process for widening and construction of a double road from Post Office Centre via Seshagirinagar to Hemachandrapuram at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 crore has been successfully completed. With this, the long-pending road development works are finally set to move forward.

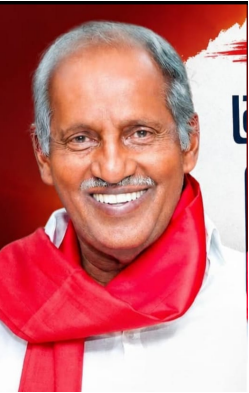
The road has been severely damaged due to the movement of heavy Singareni vehicles, causing serious inconvenience to motorists and local residents. Taking note of the problems caused by potholes, dust and heavy traffic, local MLA Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao took special initiative to find a permanent solution to the issue.

The MLA held several meetings with senior Singareni officials and urged them to take up the road reconstruction and widening works. Following his continued efforts and persistent follow-up, the Singareni management responded positively and sanctioned the required funds.

With the funds sanctioned, Singareni officials have already completed the tendering process for the works. As the necessary approvals have also been completed, arrangements are being made to commence the double road construction works at the ground level shortly.

Once the project is completed, travel from Post Office Centre to Hemachandrapuram will become much easier and safer. The widened road is expected to improve the movement of heavy vehicles, reduce traffic congestion and provide permanent relief to local residents from potholes and dust-related problems.

Local residents have expressed happiness over the development, appreciating MLA Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao's initiative in addressing the long-standing public issue. The Rs. 12 crore double road project is expected to become another major milestone in infrastructure development in Kothagudem constituency.



Scrap GO No. 97 Immediately! Protect the Future of Polytechnic Students – Kesari Yuvaraju

Bhadrachalam, August 21: Telangana Students' Wing Bhadrachalam Constituency President Kesari Yuvaraju has demanded that the Congress government immediately withdraw GO No. 97, which proposes the merger of Polytechnic education with the Young India Skill University.

Speaking at a meeting held in Bhadrachalam, Yuvaraju said merging Polytechnic education with another educational system was not an appropriate decision. He expressed concern that the government's move could create uncertainty over the future of thousands of Polytechnic students across Telangana.

He said Polytechnic education plays a crucial role in providing technical education to students from poor and middle-class families while creating better employment opportunities. Any sudden changes to the existing system are causing serious concern among students and their parents, he said.

Concern Over the Future of 75,000 Students

Yuvaraju expressed concern that the future of around 75,000 Polytechnic students across the state could be adversely affected by the decision. He urged the government to immediately reconsider GO No. 97 and keep it on hold, keeping the interests of students in mind.

He further demanded that the government withdraw decisions that could affect students' interests. The Telangana Students' Wing will continue its fight until justice is done to Polytechnic students, he asserted.

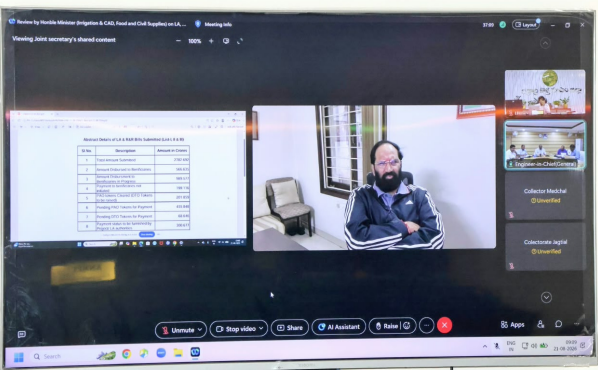
BRS leaders Kesari Yuvaraju, Imandi Nageswara Rao, Ranjith Kumar and others participated in the meeting.



Pending Land Acquisition Process Must Be Expedited
Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy directs officials to ensure irrigation project works face no hurdles

KOTHAGUDEM, AUGUST 21 (TODAY FREEDOM NEWS): State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed officials to expedite the pending land acquisition, compensation payment and rehabilitation processes related to irrigation projects in the district.

The Minister held a video conference from Hyderabad on Friday with District Collectors and senior Irrigation Department officials to review pending land acquisition, compensation payments, rehabilitation and other issues concerning irrigation projects across the State. District Collector Ankit participated in the video conference from the Collector's Camp Office at the IDOC office



in Kothagudem.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the pending land acquisition process must be completed without delay to ensure the timely completion of irrigation projects. He stated that the government was taking steps to release Rs. 2,800 crore for pending land acquisition works and that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had approved the proposal.

The Minister instructed the Collectors

to expedite pending land acquisition and rehabilitation works to facilitate the creation of new ayacut. Since funds required for land acquisition are being made available, the entire process should be completed without any delay, ensuring that project works continue without interruption, he said.

Collector Ankit directs speedy completion

After the video conference, District Collector Ankit directed the concerned officials



to speed up the pending land acquisition, compensation payment and rehabilitation processes related to irrigation projects in the district.

He instructed officials to examine any land acquisition-related issues at the field level and resolve them in coordination with farmers. Compensation payable to farmers and rehabilitation-related matters should be given top priority, he said.

The Collector further directed officials to

complete the land acquisition process within the stipulated time without any delay. He stressed that officials of all concerned departments should work in close coordination and resolve pending issues at the earliest to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted progress of irrigation project works.

Officials from the Irrigation Department, Land Acquisition Department and other concerned departments participated in the video conference.

TGE JAC Holds Preparatory Meeting for Maha Dharna in Sangareddy

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : August 21, 2026: A preparatory meeting was held under the auspices of the Sangareddy district TGE JAC to ensure the success of the Maha Dharna scheduled for August 27. The meeting was held at the TNGOs Association building in Sangareddy, where leaders discussed employees' issues, pending demands and strategies to mobilise employees for the protest.

TGE JAC Chairman

Jaweed Ali called upon employees from across the district to participate in large numbers and make the Maha Dharna a success. He said the protest was being organised to press for the scrapping of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), strengthening of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and Employees Health Scheme (EHS), besides resolving other pending issues.

He said the primary



objective of the JAC was to bring employees' genuine problems to the notice of the government and work towards their resolution.

Later, TGE JAC leaders met the District Collector and Superintendent of Police and submitted a representation regarding the

Maha Dharna. They requested the authorities to extend necessary cooperation regarding permissions, security arrangements and other requirements for the programme.

TGE JAC General Secretary Vaidyanath and Co-Chairman

Gangadhar said that employees needed to fight unitedly for the resolution of their long-pending issues. They appealed to employees, union leaders and representatives to attend the Maha Dharna on August 27 in large numbers.

The meeting decided to conduct an extensive awareness campaign across the district and mobilise employees to participate in the protest. Leaders of various employee associations attended the meeting.

State Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy visited Jagtial district.

Foundation stone laid for construction of several newly sanctioned government office buildings

Jagtiala, August 21 : Jagtiala district will have an opportunity to provide better and faster services to the people with the construction of newly sanctioned government office buildings, said State Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. On Friday, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, State SC, ST, Elderly, Disabled and Transgender Empowerment Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar, Jagtiala MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar, CCLA Commissioner Lokesh Kumar, Special Secretary Stamps and Registration Department Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu, MD Housing Gautam, District Collector B. Satya Prasad laid the foundation stone for the construction of several newly sanctioned government office buildings at Dharur Camp. He said that construction work will be undertaken for the construction of 6 government office buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.80 crore for the construction of Jagtiala Revenue Divisional Office building, Rs. 2.25 crore for the construction of Metpally Revenue Divisional Office building, Rs. 2.25 crore for the construction of Bhimaram Tahsildar's office building, Rs. 2.25 crore for the construction of Endapally Tahsildar's office building, Rs. 1.40 crore for the construction of Mallyala Sub-Registrar's office building, and Rs. 1.40 crore for the construction of Metpally Sub-Registrar's office building. On this occasion, the foundation stone laying ceremony was held for the construction of new buildings of Jagtiala, Metpally Revenue Divisional Offices, Bhimaram, Endapally Tahsildar's offices, Mallyala, Metpally Sub-Registrar's offices. The Minister stated that by constructing new office buildings with modern facilities, it will be possible to provide the gov-



ernment services required by the people more easily and conveniently. He said that in addition to providing better facilities to the people in government offices, suitable infrastructure will be available for the officers and staff to perform their duties effectively. The Minister instructed the concerned officers to complete the construction work of new buildings with quality standards and within the stipulated time. He said that the government is taking steps to make the services of revenue, registration and other departments more accessible to the people. He suggested that all the necessary facilities should be provided keeping in mind the needs of the people in the construction of offices. The Minister clarified that the government's goal is to further strengthen the administrative facilities in the district and provide transparent and efficient services to the people. Legislative Council Member L. Ramana, Choppadandi MLA Medipelli Satyam, Velama Welfare Corporation Chairman Juvvadi Narsingarao, Additional Collectors B. S. Latha, B. Raja Goud, Jagtiala District Library Chairman Sanghanabhatla Dinesh, Jagtiala, Met Pelli, Korutla RDOs Madhusudhan, Narasimha Rao, Jeevakar Reddy, Jagtiala Municipal Chairman Samindla Vani, Dharmapuri Municipal Chairman Nagajyothi, Met Pelli Municipal Chairman, Korutla Municipal Chairman, Raikal Municipal Chairman, local public representatives of the respective mandals, district level officials, concerned officials and others participated in these programs.

Soori's high-octane sports drama 'Mandaadi' cleared for release

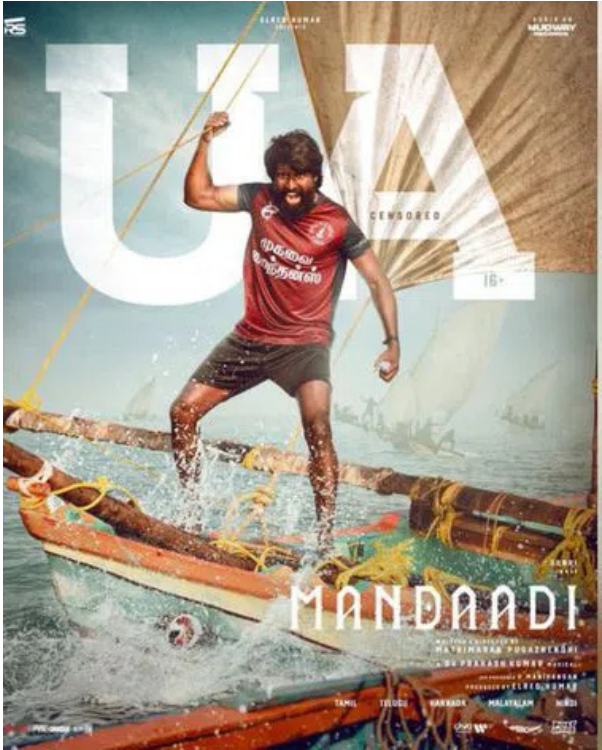
Soori-starrer sports action drama 'Mandaadi' has received a U/A 16+ certificate from the CBFC. Directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, the film features high-risk sea-based stunts performed by Soori and is set for a pan-Indian release in Tamil, Telugu and HindiHistory

Chennai: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Mathimaran Pugazhendhi's much-anticipated upcoming sports action drama 'Mandaadi', featuring actor Soori and Mahima Nambiar in the lead, for release with a U/A 16+ certificate.

Taking to its X timeline, R S Infotainment, the production house producing the film, wrote, "#Mandaadi is U/A 16+ Certified! #Mandaadi in cinemas worldwide on September 10, 2026. @sooriofficial #Suhas #sathyaraj @Mahima_Nambiar 'Mandaadi' will mark the Tamil debut of Telugu actor Suhas, who plays a pivotal role alongside Soori. Apart from Soori, Mahima Nambiar and Suhas, the film will also feature actors Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, and Balasaravan in important roles.

For the unaware, the title 'Mandaadi' is inspired by the rich maritime culture of Tamil Nadu's coastal belt and embodies the spirit of individuals who possess exceptional skill, determination, and leadership in navigating the challenges of the sea.History

Shooting for the film had been wrapped in April this year. A video that the makers had released while announcing that shooting for the film



had been wrapped up showed how the cast and the crew had suffered injuries while making the film that has been predominantly shot at sea.

The film has triggered huge interest among fans and film buffs as Soori has performed all the high risk stunts that were shot on sea for the film himself.

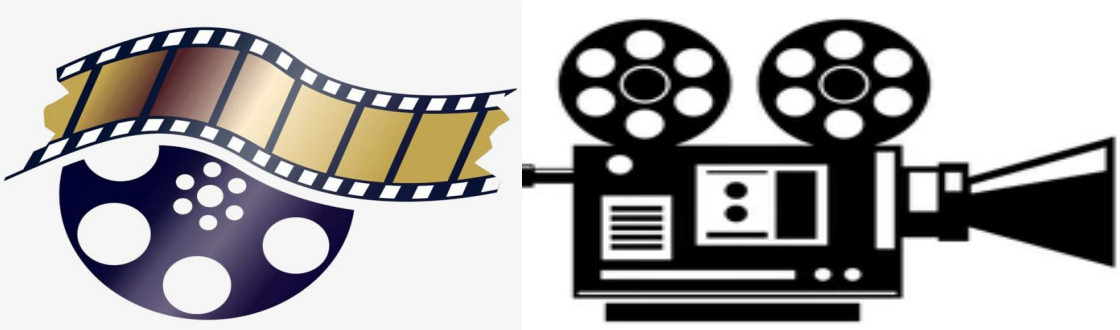
The film is expected to emerge as a significant milestone in Soori's career as it stands as the biggest and most ambitious project he has undertaken to date. Sources point out that one of the film's major strengths lies in Soori's extraordinary physical commitment.

The actor has personally performed all the high-risk action sequences set in the sea, without the use of body doubles.

Sources in the know had told IANS that for the extensive sailboat racing portions, Soori underwent rigorous training and hands-on preparation over several months, mastering the physical and technical demands of the sport. This dedication, they said, had added authenticity and emotional weight to the film, significantly enhancing its realism and cinematic impact.

Shot extensively across the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Ramanathapuram belt, 'Mandaadi', the sources claim, has large-scale action blocks, emotionally charged sequences, and ambitious sailboat racing portions. The production team they point out has worked tirelessly across challenging terrains and weather conditions to ensure authenticity and visual richness.

'Mandaadi' is being positioned as a pan-Indian release, slated to hit screens in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.



CINEMA

Anil Ravipudi Trolled for His Title; Producer Says, "Netizens May Have Their Views"

"Anil Ravipudi knows the pulse of the audience very well. He has once again assured that this will be a comic caper with family drama, so a funny and unconventional title could work. But netizens naturally have a different opinion," says a producer.

Twitter has been one of the most influential platforms for Telugu cinema over the past decade. However, in recent years, social media has also become a space where paid campaigns and manufactured perceptions are increasingly used to influence the conversation around films.

Amid this, Anil Ravipudi stands out as a filmmaker who has consistently faced criticism from Telugu Twitter, yet appears largely unfazed by it. The director has a clear understanding of his strengths and, more importantly, the pulse of the family audience. Rather than trying to please social-media circles, he continues to make films aimed at families and the masses.

His career has repeatedly demonstrated that Twitter sentiment does not necessarily determine a film's box-office fate. Films that are heavily trolled online can still find a strong theatrical audience if they connect with families and the masses. Conversely, a film that enjoys tremendous social-media hype does not automatically translate that buzz into ticket sales.



Anil seems to understand this distinction better than most. He has rarely allowed Twitter criticism to dictate his promotional strategy or filmmaking choices. In fact, with his latest announcement, it appears he may even be turning the trolling into part of the game.

The announcement video of January 12 Vidudala, his upcoming film with Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyanram, has already triggered a mixed response on social media. Several Telugu Twitter users have described the video as "cringe", particularly questioning its quirky presentation and title.

But Anil would hardly have been unaware of that possibility. Given his experience with social media, he would have known that the announcement was likely to generate memes and trolling. Yet, he went ahead with it anyway.

And that may actually be the strategy. In today's social-media ecosystem, negative publicity often travels faster than positive publicity. A title or promo that triggers debate can generate far more organic conversation than a conventional announcement that receives polite appreciation and disappears from the timeline within hours.

For Anil Ravipudi, this could be another example of knowing his audience — and knowing which audience really matters. Telugu Twitter may have its own opinion, but the filmmaker continues to focus on the people who ultimately buy the tickets.

If the latest announcement is any indication, Anil may have reached a stage where he is not merely ignoring Telugu Twitter's trolling, but perhaps even using it to his advantage.

Ameer Log, Not Just Restricted To Nizam

For the director, the premiere response was another important validation, as it indicated that the film had managed to communicate the vision behind its making.

The countdown has begun for Ameer Log, the upcoming film that marks the production debut of Madhavi Reddy Soma. Made under Awwal Number Productions, the film is written and directed by Ramana Reddy Soma, with Manohar Reddy Manchuri coming on board as co-producer. The film features MC Hari, Manoj, Vedha Jalandhar and Sashidhar in lead roles.

The film's team sounded highly confident during a press meet. Director Ramana Reddy Soma revealed that the makers have gone through the film several times and each viewing reinforced their belief that they had created a winner. He maintained that Ameer Log does not follow a familiar template and claimed that audiences have not seen a film of this nature before.



For the director, the premiere response was another important validation, as it indicated that the film had managed to communicate the vision behind its making.

Ramana Reddy Soma also used the occasion to discuss the evolution of Telugu cinema. He noted that Malayalam films are often praised for attempting stories that are different from con-

ventional commercial cinema. In his view, Hyderabad is now ready to establish its own identity in this space. He expects the August 21 release to be the beginning of a larger journey for Ameer Log, with the response in Nizam potentially spreading to other regions. "This film is not just restricted to Nizam, and will equally appeal to the audiences in other

regions." Producer Madhavi Reddy Soma, meanwhile, expressed gratitude towards Ramana for his unwavering support. She said he guided her throughout the production and personally handled the film's writing, direction and production responsibilities. She described Ameer Log as a care-

fully created work that resembles a beautiful painting. More than simply entertaining viewers, she believes the film will make them feel something deeply personal, with every audience member taking away an emotion of their own. Spirit Media, the banner led by Rana Daggubati, is releasing the film in Telugu on August 21.

Rashi Singh's Colourful Saree Look Wins Hearts

Rashi Singh smiles warmly in a vibrant multi-coloured saree paired with traditional gold and pearl jewellery. Her glowing expression and effortless poise capture the fresh, approachable charm that has made her a rising face in Telugu cinema.

Born in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, Rashi briefly worked as an air hostess before deciding to pursue acting full-time. She made her Telugu film debut in 2021 with the romantic drama Sashi, playing Sunitha opposite Aadi Saikumar.



She steadily built her presence with roles in Prem Kumar (2023) as Netra, followed by the mystery thriller Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana (2024) as Lakshmi and the critically noted Prasanna Vadanam (2024), where she portrayed ACP Vaidehi. These performances showcased her ability to handle both emotional and authoritative characters.

With a growing slate of diverse roles, Rashi continues to establish herself as a versatile talent in Tollywood.